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Protesters pound the door of the police department in Kenosha in the US state of Wisconsin on Sunday; (inset) Jacob Blake | AP

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ANOTHER POLICE SHOOTING OF BLACK MAN ROCKS U.S.

Violent protests erupted in Wisconsin on Sunday night after police shot an unarmed black man in the back several times

THE VICTIM IS BATTLING FOR LIFE

The police said the shooting happened when they were responding to a "domestic incident" on Sunday evening in Kenosha. A footage showed three officers pointing their guns at the man, identified as Jacob Blake, as he walked around the front of a car. He was shot when he opened the driver's door and leaned in. He was hospitalised in a serious condition

MULTIPLE VEHICLES SET ON FIRE

- Protesters took out a march to the Kenosha police station on Sunday night. There, they faced off with officers in riot gear. Multiple vehicles, including a truck, were set ablaze
- The incident comes three months after the police killing of African-American George Floyd triggered worldwide protests |P11

29-yr-old

JACOB BLAKE WAS SHOT IN FRONT OF HIS THREE CHILDREN

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Sonia to continue as Congress chief, party to find new boss in 6 months

Veterans who expressed dissent sidelined at CWC meet; majority sought a Gandhi at the helm

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

THE much-hyped dissent by senior leaders turned out to be a whimper on Monday, with the Congress Working Committee requesting Sonia Gandhi to continue leading the party until a new leader is elected.

"The CWC makes it clear that no one will be or can be permitted to undermine or weaken the party and its leadership at this juncture," said the CWC resolution, sending a strong message to dissenters.

The seven-hour CWC meeting saw the veterans, who wrote to Sonia seeking "collective leadership", being cornered with a majority of the members condemning their move and some demanding action against them.

Sources said that Rahul Gandhi was unsparing in his speech, saying these leaders' move will benefit only the BJP. Upset by the insinuation, senior party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad threatened to quit from all party posts.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra, then, took a jibe at Azad that what he said in the meeting was contrary to the letter's content.

FLUTTER OVER BJP LINK

After reports that Rahul accused the leaders who wrote the dissenting letter of being in cahoots with the BJP, some party veterans expressed anguish. The Congress quickly clarified he has not uttered a word of this nature

Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal, too, expressed his anguish, but later clarified he "was informed by Rahul personally that he never said what was attributed to him".

After the meeting, a few veterans met at Azad's residence to discuss the future course.

The meeting started with the party's organisations in-charge K C Venugopal reading out Sonia's statement, asking the CWC "to begin deliberations of putting in place a process of transition to relieve me from my duties". This made her two confidantes, former PM Manmohan Singh and A K Antony, requesting her to continue leading the party, while calling the letter by party colleagues as "unfortunate and cruel".

A majority of CWC members said that Sonia should continue to lead the party till Rahul takes over. Congress CMs and CWC members were in unison that only a Gandhi can keep the party together.

However, sources said Rahul is still reluctant to take the hot seat. An AICC session is likely to be called within six months to elect the next leader.

Four of the letter's signatories, who are part of the CWC, clarified that the letter was to bring focus on the organisation, restricting and settling leadership issues, and never to question Sonia's leadership. Azad and Anand Sharma said they have not breached party discipline, while Ambika Soni sought action against dissenters.

In her concluding remarks, Sonia said she was hurt by the contents of the letter, but doesn't hold any ill-will against party colleagues. P9

Not in race for AICC president, says Kharge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

VETERAN Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday denied reports of him being in the race for All-India Congress Committee president.

After the Congress Working Committee meeting in New Delhi, Kharge said he conveyed at the meeting that all leaders unanimously supported Sonia Gandhi to continue as AICC chief or convince Rahul Gandhi to take charge of the post. "It is mere speculation," he said, on him being in the race for the party chief's post.

He said that all concerns, including that of leaders who sought a change in leadership, were addressed, but the priority was discussing the party's future action over issues concerning the economy, unemployment and Chinese incursion. P7

If I retract a statement before this court that I otherwise believe to be true offer an insincere apology, that in my eyes would amount to the contempt of my conscience and of an institution I hold in highest esteem

Prashant Bhushan

Bhushan rules out apology; verdict today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

A day before the Supreme Court's scheduled hearing on the quantum of sentence for his tweets, activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan on Monday reiterated that he won't apologise for his comments.

In a fresh statement filed in the apex court, Bhushan said he believes his comments against the judiciary were right. Therefore, an apology would be insincere and amount to contempt of his conscience, he said.

"I expressed myself in good faith, not to malign the Supreme Court or any particular Chief Justice, but to offer constructive criticism, so that the court can arrest any drift away from its long-standing role as a guardian of the Constitution and custodian of peoples' rights," he said.

Bhushan added his tweets represented this bona-fide belief. "Public expression of these beliefs was in line with my higher obligations as a citizen and a loyal officer of this court. Therefore, an apology for expression of these beliefs, conditional or unconditional, would be insincere." He noted an apology cannot be a mere incantation and any apology has to, as the court has itself put it, be sincerely made.

EXPRESS READ

K'taka to be first state to implement NEP

Bengaluru: Karnataka is slated to emerge as the first state in the country to implement the new National Education Policy (NEP), Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said on Monday | P3

US researchers testing nasal vaccine for Covid

Bengaluru: Researchers from Washington University School of Medicine tell TNIE that they are trying out a Covid vaccine that can be delivered nasally, which could undergo human trials in coming months | P4

Session in Soudha, doors to be kept open

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE State Government on Monday decided to hold the legislature session from September 21 for 10 days at the Assembly Hall of the Vidhana Soudha by taking adequate precautionary measures and making changes in the seating arrangements.

Doors and windows of the Assembly Hall will be kept open during the session, while glass shields will be placed between chairs. All members have to wear a face mask and a face shield.

Earlier, the idea of conducting the session outside the Vidhana Soudha was considered in view of Covid-19.

On Monday, Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J C Madhuswamy and Chief Secretary T M Vijaya Bhaskar inspected the Assembly Hall.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Madhuswamy said they decided to conduct the session at the Vidhana Soudha as before. "But there will be many internal changes. We will put transparent fibre sheets between the seats of members," he said. P7

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